and customer-focussed approach. To achieve this, Railways' policy contemplates strengthening the Railways' presence in the long-haul bulk movement and containerised cargo segments. With a view to recapturing the piece-meal, high rated general cargo, CONCOR's domestic division has started new service named "CONTRACK" in 1997. In the railway budget for 2000-01, the railways have set an objective to raise the rail share of freight traffic from 40% to 50% during the first decade of the new millennium. Achievement of this target will require a substantian augmentation of the line and terminal capacity on the saturated "High-Density Network", and a multi-pronged new Freight Policy with the following elements:

* Recovering non-bulk high value traffic through appropriate marketing effors.
* Providing incentives like "volume discount scheme".
* Offering the leasing route to Freight Forwarders in the Luggage Vans (SLRs) on popular mail and express trains.
* Facilitating warehousing at existing railway terminals as a marketing tool to attract traffic.
* Extending the new concept of Roll-On-Roll-Off (RO-RO) in freight movement. Trucks rolled on to flat wagons will be transported by Rail and unloaded from wagons at destinations to provide door to door collection and delivery. This has been successfully launched on the Konkan Railway.
* Running of fixed schedule freight trains and terminal operations.
* Launching the "Freight Operations Information System" (FOIS) to provide real-time information to customers in regard to booking, movement and delivery of freight consignments through Customer Service Cells to be set up on all Zonal Railways.
* Using the shadow-path created behind fast moving mail / express trains for speedy movement of freight traffic. High speed goods trains are slated to follow superfast express trains with adequate safety precautions to ensure expeditious transit of select high value and perishable goods.

Renovation of Ghoom Railway Station of Darjeeling

5160. SHRI DAWA LAMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have agreed to renovate the Ghoom Railway Station at Darjeeling, to turn it as a Heritage Railway Station;

(b) whether Government have also agreed to build up proper infrastructures at Ghoom Railway Station to turn it attractive for tourists; and

(c) if so, time-frame, thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) A major part of the renovation of Ghoom Railway Station on Darjeeling Heritage Railway will be completed within the current financial year.

Rail Line from Patiala to Jakhal

5161. SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH LIBRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any survey has been conducted on the construction of rail line from Patiala to Jakhal via Samana and Patran; and

(b) if so, what is the status of the project, as on date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Due to grossly unremunerative nature of the project and constraint of resources, it has not been found possible to consider this project at present.

Bookstall Contracts through open Tenders

5162. SHRI P. SOUNDARARAJAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration that all future bookstall contracts at Railway Stations would be awarded through open tender system;

(b) whether it is also under consideration of Government that all the bookstall contracts existing at present on Indian Railways would be cancelled and the same would be awarded afresh through open tender system; and

(c) if so, what are the details in respect of parts (a) and (b) above?